

App# 10/786,050

(b) Amendments to the Specification

980 4/01/2008

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 58, line 8 and ending on page 59, line 17 with the following replacement paragraph:

--A method for producing the toner particles of the present invention preferably includes removing a certain amount of fine powders and coarse powders from the toner ingredient particles pulverized close to a desired particle size in advance using an air sifter, and subjecting the toner particles to surface modification and removal of the ultrafine powder component through the surface modification device. Removal of the fine powders in advance results in satisfactory dispersion of the toner particles inside the surface modification device. The fine powder component in the toner particles, in particular, has a large specific area and has a relatively higher charge amount compared to other large toner particles. Therefore, the fine powder component is hardly separated from other toner particles, and the ultrafine powder component may not be adequately classified by the classification rotor. However, removing the fine powder component in the toner particles in advance allows easier dispersion of individual toner particles inside the surface modification device and adequate classification of the ultrafine powder component by the classification rotor, thus providing toner particles having a desired particle size distribution. The toner with the fine powders removed using the air sifter preferably has a cumulative value of a number average distribution of the toner particles having a particle diameter of less than 4  $\mu\text{m}$  of 10% to less than 50%, preferably 15% to less than 45%, more preferably 15% to less than 40% in the particle diameter distribution measured using a ~~Coulter-counter~~ COULTER-COUNTER method. The ultrafine powder component can